

BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS

Government of the Virgin Islands

"Security, Custody, Control"

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Two Detainees Arrested and Two Others Treated at JFL and Returned to Jail After Attack at John Bell February 24, 2021

Two detainees were arrested, and two other detainees were treated at the Juan Luis Hospital and released back into the custody of the Bureau of Corrections, after an attack that took place at approximately 8:20 a.m. yesterday at the John A. Bell Adult Correctional Facility on St. Croix ("John Bell").

Police arrested Hector Ramos, Jr., 43, and Manuel Davis, 23, yesterday and charged both with first-degree attempted murder in connection with the attack. Previously, Ramos was charged with first degree assault, mayhem, and carrying or using a dangerous weapon during a crime of violence and was being held at John Bell while awaiting trial. Davis was awaiting trial for attempted first degree murder and unauthorized possession of a firearm.

Both Ramos and Davis were placed in special housing after the attack and face jail disciplinary proceedings in addition to the criminal charges. BOC recovered the weapons used in the attack and has launched a full investigation to determine how Ramos and Davis obtained them. John Bell was placed on lockdown following the incident.

"We will use every resource available to find out how these dangerous weapons got into the jail," BOC Director Wynnie Testamark said. "Anyone found to have aided these detainees in getting a hold of this illegal contraband will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," she added.

BOC Press Release Two Detainees Arrested & Two Others Treated at JFL and Returned to Jail February 24, 2021 Page 2

The two detainees injured in the attack were taken by ambulance to Juan Luis Hospital, treated for their injuries, and released the same day back into BOC custody. No BOC staff were injured in the incident.

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